

Alaska Fisheries Science Center
Marine Mammal Laboratory
7600 Sand Point Way NE, Bin C15700
Seattle, Washington 98115-0070

(206) 526-4313

FAX: 526-6615

February 16, 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

FROM: John Bengtson, Michael Williams, and Rod Towell

SUBJECT: 2015 northern fur seal adult male counts on
the Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

Adult male northern fur seals on St. Paul and St. George Islands (Table 1) were counted over the period July 9 to 15, 2015. Counts of territorial males with females (class 3, "harem" males) on St. George Island increased by 12.9% compared to 2014. Idle males (classes 2 and 5) on St. George Island decreased in comparison to 2014 by 37.9%. On St. Paul Island the "harem" males decreased by less than 1.0% and the idle males increased by 4.9% (Figure 2). Overall, the total number of adult males counted on the Pribilof Islands in 2015 decreased by 1.6% from 2014 to 8,707. The total number of "harem" males increased by 2.5% on the Pribilof Islands.

Table 1. Number of adult male northern fur seals counted, by rookery, Pribilof Islands, Alaska, July 2015.

	Date	Class of adult male*			
Rookery	(July)	2	3	5	Total
<u>St. Paul Island</u>					
Lukanin	14	27	113	55	195
Kitovi	14	38	181	139	358
Reef	10	138	392	350	880
Gorbatch	10	83	264	306	653
Ardiguen	10	6	51	7	64
Morjovi	13	85	288	277	650
Vostochni	13	134	686	300	1,120
Polovina	12	26	113	181	320
Little Polovina	12	0	0	98	98
Polovina Cliffs	12	62	257	37	356
Tolstoi	9	128	277	232	637
Zapadni Reef	11	66	160	122	348
Little Zapadni	11	81	214	200	495
Zapadni	11	126	360	370	856
Island total		1,000	3,356	2,674	7,030
<u>St. George Island</u>					
South	12	73	165	38	276
North	13	69	323	162	554
East Reef	14	36	120	26	182
East Cliffs	14	70	242	80	392
Staraya Artil	13	7	57	25	89
Zapadni	12	25	82	77	184
Island total		280	989	408	1,677

* Adult males are assumed to be equal to or greater than 7 years of age. Class 2 – territorial without females; Class 3 – territorial with females; Class 5 – non-territorial males.

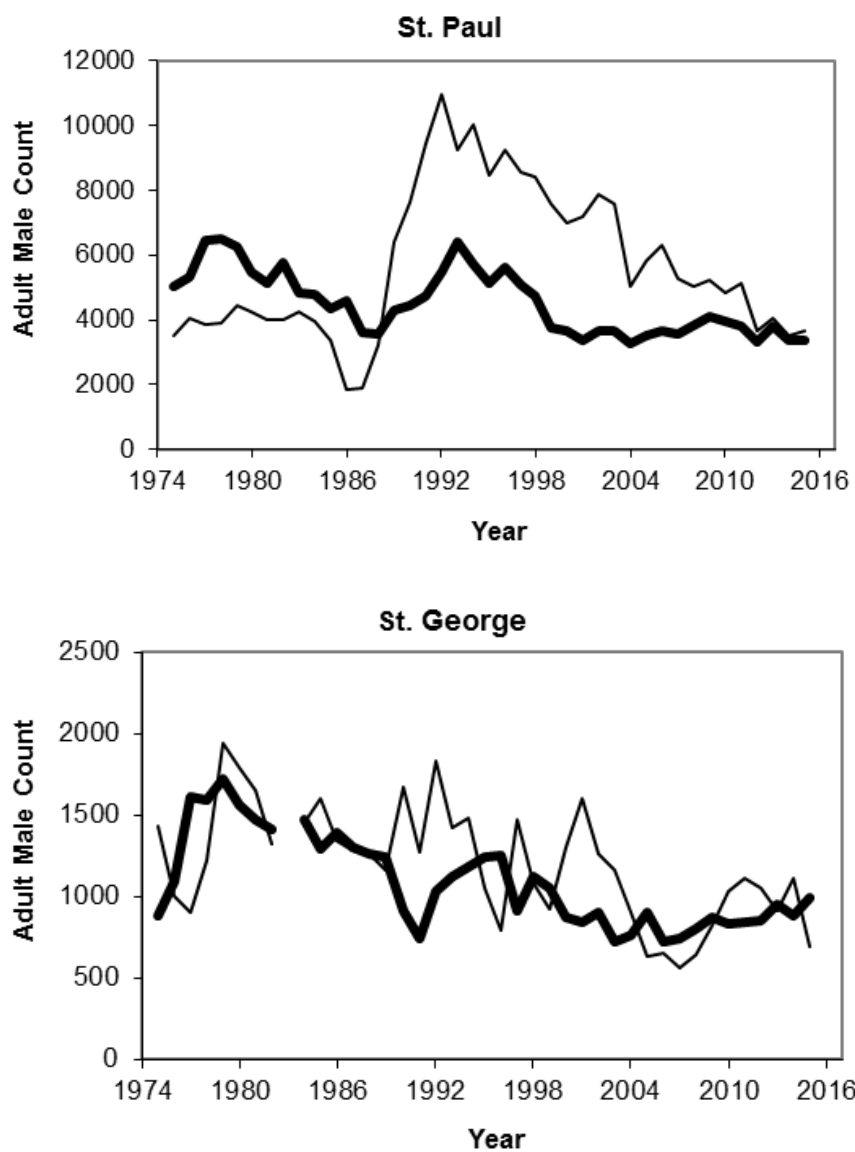


Figure 2. Northern fur seal adult males (harem, class 3 – thick line; idle, classes 2 and 5 – thin) counted on the Pribilof Islands 1975-2015.